

**SPECIAL TOPICS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE: WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

**Bluefield State College  
POSC 495—SPRING 2020  
CRN: 21511  
Section: 001  
Credits: 3.0**

**Colin S. Cavell, Ph.D.**  
Class: via email  
Office Hours: TBA  
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**Special Topics in Political Science (1-3 hours).** Independent research in major field for students who have demonstrated a capacity for responsible work. Not repeatable. PR: POSC 200 or POSC 210, permission of directing professor and dean.

Grading Policy: 100% for Presentation of some aspect of your legislative intern experience (schedule a date with me during the semester [at the latest by April 15, 2020], and I shall set up an acceptable venue)

Grading Scale: 90-100=A; 80-89=B; 70-79=C; 60-69=D; 0-59=F. These numerical scores correspond to the following evaluations: “A” = Excellent; “B” = Good; “C” = Satisfactory (NOTE: A grade of “C” or better is required in major courses); “D” = Poor (passing, except in major courses); “F” = Earned Failure (removed only by repeating the course; upon successfully passing the course, the first grade is “excluded” from grade point average. The second grade is “included” in the recalculation of the grade point average); and “I” = Incomplete.

Netiquette: When sending me an email, **ALWAYS** put the course number (e.g. POSC 495) in the Subject Heading line on your message, as I teach many courses and have many students; consequently, with no reference to which course you are referring to, it is difficult to look it up.

**Institutional Learning Outcomes for General Studies:**

**ILO1: Communication [AAC&U WRITTEN AND AAC&U ORAL COMMUNICATION]**  
Students will communicate effectively both orally and in writing.

**ILO2: Information Literacy [AAC&U INFORMATION LITERACY]**  
Students will select appropriate resources, prioritize information in terms of relevance and reliability, question and evaluate the complexity of the information environment, and use information in an ethical manner.

**ILO5: Social, Artistic, and Cultural Literacy [AAC&U GLOBAL LEARNING AND AAC&U CIVIC ENGAGEMENT]**  
Students will analyze and compare diverse social and cultural patterns, texts, and performances and will evaluate them from a global perspective.

**ILO6: Scientific Literacy [AAC&U INQUIRY AND ANALYSIS]**  
Students will understand and apply scientific concepts and develop science inquiry and research skills.

**ILO7: Critical and Ethical Reasoning [AAC&U CRITICAL THINKING AND AAC&U ETHICAL REASONING]**  
Students will interpret, analyze, and construct ethical arguments.

(effective August 8, 2013)

**Program Learning Outcomes:**

*PO1: Examine the evolution and/or effects of cultures in terms of behaviors, experiences, and differences.*

*PO2: Understand and/or apply basic knowledge of principles and methods found in the social sciences disciplines.*

*PO3: Communicate effectively within a social science area of concentration.*

*PO4: Critique, analyze, and assess topics, ideas, and/or sources within the social sciences disciplines.*

*PO5: Evaluate, select, and apply an appropriate research methodology in the social sciences.*

*PO6: Apply ethics across the social science disciplines.*

**Course Learning Outcomes:** Upon completion of POSC 495, students should:

CLO1: be able to read and provide an immanent critique of texts;

CLO2: be able to articulate arguments and examine their flaws;

CLO3: be familiar with the basics of logical, ethical, and dialectical reasoning;

CLO4: be familiar with arguments, both pro and con, regarding the nature of the “good life”;

CLO5: comprehend the ethical considerations of everyday life and the questions of political rule in modern society;

CLO6: be aware of the various conceptions regarding the state of nature, the basis for a social contract, and conceptions of private versus public property;

CLO7: be able to appreciate the value of tolerating alternative beliefs;

CLO8: understand the value and role of human labor, money, and commodities;

CLO9: be able to understand the various conceptions of the purposes of government, the proper ordering of political relationships, the nature of class struggle, the basics of political economy, the contradictions between liberty and order, and the effects of race, gender, class, and other divisions on society;

CLO10: understand the workings of the West Virginia Legislature and its role in society and the various political struggles currently unfolding therein.

**Mission Statement:** The mission of Bluefield State College is to provide students an affordable, accessible opportunity for public higher education. An historically black institution, Bluefield State College prepares students for diverse professions, graduate study, informed citizenship, community involvement, and public service in an ever-changing global society. The College demonstrates its commitment to the student’s intellectual, personal, ethical, and cultural development by providing a dedicated faculty and staff, quality educational programs, and strong student support services in a nurturing environment.

**Teaching Procedures:** This course will be taught completely through email and meetings with professor if needed.

**Academic Integrity Policy:** Academic integrity is expected of all students. This means that all work for this class must be undertaken and completed by you alone without collaboration from others. Any dishonesty in the performance of course work, such as plagiarism or cheating in other forms, will be reported. In the event the student is charged with some form of dishonesty, the Student Discipline Policy will be followed. The full text of the BSC Academic Honesty Policy can be found at: <http://www.bluefieldstate.edu/academics/academic-honesty-and-proctoring>. In addition, students should be aware that research paper assignments must be submitted to [Turnitin](#) for the purpose of checking for plagiarism. Submitted assignments will be included in the BSC dedicated database of assignments at Turnitin and will be used solely for the purpose of checking for possible plagiarism during the grading process during this term and in the future.

**Attendance Policy:** Attendance will be calculated by responding to email with the professor on course assignments and requirements.

**Withdrawal Policy:** Academic Withdrawal from the course prior to the deadline date for withdrawal as published within the academic calendar is accomplished by securing a change in schedule form and having

it signed by appropriate persons. Blank copies of the change in schedule form are available in the offices of the Registrar, the Vice President for Academic Affairs (Provost), the Dean and your advisor. After obtaining the required signatures, the student must submit, prior to the deadline date, the change in schedule form to the Office of the Registrar.

**ADA Accommodation:** Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the Office of Student Support Services at 304-327-4097 in Basic Science 113 to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.

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**\*\*\*This class will be conducted through email and meetings with the professor if needed.\*\*\***

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**Jan. 8 – Mar. 7, 2020:** West Virginia 2020 Legislative Session (60 days)

**Apr. 30:** [**Presentation Due**] (Presentation must be concluded by today)

**Assignment:** Presentation Due today. Presentation of some aspect of your legislative intern experience (schedule a date with me during the semester [at the latest by April 30, 2020], and I shall set up an acceptable venue)

**May 1:** (Last day of classes. All course work **MUST** be completed by this date. No submissions will be accepted after this date.

**May 12, 2020:** Final grades due to Registrar electronically